

WIMBORNE URBAN DISTRICT.

Medical Officer of Health's Annual Report, 1920.

Area of District.

574 Acres. Exclusive of Water—558 Acres.

Population.

Estimated :—3,800. (1911 Census :—3,711).

Social Conditions and Occupations.

The Town depends on its residential population. The occupations are various, the principal one being Engineering.

Sanitary Conditions. Water :—

With the exception of a few houses supplied by Wells, the Bournemouth Water Company supplies the town. The supply is constant. There have been a few isolated cases where complaints have been received about the water being unfit for use, the cause of which was a deposit in the pipes, or new pipes being laid. In one case, it appeared to me to be due to Chlorination. Regarding the wells, these are gradually being closed. Most of them are in gardens, and after heavy rains are liable to pollution from human and other excrement. Analysis when made, has proved such to be the case.

Rivers and Streams

The Stour and Allen. There is no pollution.

Drainage and Sewerage.

There are several main sewers, these convey the sewage to the rivers, the sewage having previously passed through filter-beds, each house having its own filter-beds.

Closet Accomodation.

Number of Privies with fixed receptacles	..	..	16
Earth Closets with movable	„	..	994
Fresh Water Closets	..	..	258
Waste Water and Hand-flushed Closets	..	..	Nil.

The effluents from the Water-closets pass into the filter-beds, thence to the river, or, into cesspools which are emptied by the Scavengers, or into loose built soaks.

Scavenging

This is done twice a week. The material being removed to deposit grounds. A new deposit ground has been acquired in a more suitable place, this will shortly be in use. Arrangements are being made for the erection of a Destructor. The Bucket system is in use, each house retaining its own bucket. Suitable mould is provided by the Council.

Sanitary Inspector's Statement.

Number of inspections during the year	100
Informal Notices	20
Statutory	Nil.
Result	Necessary work carried out.

Premises and Occupations which can be controlled by Bye Laws.

There are no offensive trades or under ground sleeping rooms. There is need for a Bye-law regarding Houses intended, or, used for occupation by the working classes, and let in lodgings, or occupied by members of more than one family.

Schools.

These are all in very good condition. The water supply is from the main. The Closets are on the bucket system, and are emptied twice a week. The Council School has water closets in addition to the buckets. When the teachers find a suspicious case of illness, or skin eruption, they notify me, and I call and see the child in School or in its home, as the case may be and I advise the teacher of the result. If a throat case, I usually take a swab. Negative swabs are compulsory for the affected child, but not for contacts.

Food Supply.

Milk. There is one Dairy, the Cowsheds of which are in fair condition. There are a few Milksellers in the town, but most of the Milk comes from outside. The quantity and quality of the milk is satisfactory.

There have been no applications for Milk under the Mothers' and Children's Order, 1918.

The Slaughter-houses and Bake-houses are all in good condition.

		In 1914.	Jan. 1920.	Dec. 1920.
Registered Slaughter-houses	-	4	3	3
Licensed	„ -	0	0	0
Total		4	3	3

56lbs. of Foreign meat were condemned as unfit for human food.

Infectious Diseases.

There was one case of Scarlet Fever, and eight cases of Diphtheria. Two of these were children in the Workhouse. The contagion was traced to a child which had a discharge from the nose, a swab taken from the nose proved the child to be a carrier. The three children were sent to the Isolation Hospital in Blandford.

Small-pox cases would be sent to the Isolation Hospital at Poole, other Infectious cases go to Blandford Isolation Hospital.

In all cases of sore throat, where Diphtheria is suspected, a swab is taken, the Council paying for those in poor circumstances.

No Vaccinations have been done by me under the 1917 Regulations. There has been an increase in the number of Vaccinations done during the year. Outside the town, there are hundreds of unvaccinated Gipsy children located. If the Vaccination Officer calls and asks for Mrs. A. a woman informs him that Mrs. A. has just gone, and Mrs. A. sees him safely off the premises. If a summons is served, they move off to the next town till the affair has blown over.

Local and Adoptive Acts.

Public Health Acts. Amended Act 1890.

Ditto ditto 1907.

Part 2 Sections 15 to 25 and 27 to 33.

3 „ 34 to 36 and 43 to 51.

4, 5, 6, 10.

Private Streets Works Act 1892.

Infectious Disease Notification Act 1889.

Infectious Disease Prevention Act 1890.

VITAL STATISTICS.

	(Pre War)			
	1913	1918	1919	1920
Births	70	40	47	72
Rate per 1000 Inhabitants	18.7	13.0	12.6	19.0.
Deaths	51	56	47	40
Rate per 1000 Inhabitants	13.6.	15.2	12.6	10.5
Zymotic Deaths	1	1	1	0
Rate per 1000 Inhabitants	0.3	0.2	0.2	0
Infantile Mortality under 1 year	5	2	2	7
Rate per 1000 Births	71.4	24.5	24.5	97.2
Infantile Mortality under 2 years from Dysentery and Diarrhoea.	0	0	0	0

England and Wales.

Death Rate	12.4
Birth Rate	25.4

The Birth Rate is higher and the Death Rate lower. There are included in the above Births, seven which took place in the Workhouse, which otherwise would be credited to other Districts. Apart from that, the rate is higher, and I believe would have been higher still had it not been for the scarcity of houses, preventing young couples from marrying.

The Infantile Mortality under one year, is a very uncertain factor. Three of the above formed a triplet, and only lived a few hours, as did two others, of the remaining two, one lived 6 days the other 13 days, and all died from Premature birth or Inanition. I do not see how any value can be attached to that mortality table.

The Infantile mortality under 1 year speaks very high for the Sanitation of the town. I believe it is to a great extent due to the clearing out of old manure heaps, which was made some time ago, and is still being kept up. Credit must also be given to the tarring of the streets, and to the Milk supply.

HOUSING

(I) General Housing conditions in the District.

- (1) Extent of shortage—About 50.
- (2) Measures taken—Erection of 50 new houses.

(II) Overcrowding.

- (1) This exists to a certain extent, but it is difficult to estimate.
- (2) Cause—Shortage of houses.
- (3) Measures taken—50 new houses being built.
- (4) Action taken—No action could be taking owing to the shortage.

(III) Fitness of Houses.

- (1)—(a) The general standard of the houses is good.
- (b) The principal defect is Dampness.
- (c) The defects are due to the construction of the houses. They are old and will have to be re-constructed when there are empty houses to put their present occupants into.
- (2) General action taken as regards unfit houses.
Partly under the Public Health Acts, and partly under the Housing Acts.
- (3) Difficulties in remedying unfitness.
These are—want of means and shortage of labour.
- (4) There are no difficulties affecting housing, as regards Water supply, Closet accomodation, or disposal of refuse.

(IV) Unhealthy Areas—None.

(V) Bye-laws relating to houses, to houses let in lodgings, &c.

- (1) The existing Bye-laws work satisfactorily.
- (2) As to need for new-Bye-laws.
The existing Bye-lawes will shortly be revised.
There is need for one relating to houses let in lodgings.

APPENDICES.

HOUSING CONDITIONS.

Statistics, year ending 31st December, 1920.

1. General.

Estimate Population	..	...	3,800.
General Death Rate	..	...	10.50.
Death Rate from Tuberculosis		...	1.31.
Infantile Mortality	...	...	2.10.
No new Working-class houses erected.			

2. Unfit Dwelling Houses.

I. Inspection.

Total houses inspected (under Public Health or Housing Acts) 300.
No houses recorded under the housing regulations, 1910.
One house found to be unfit for habitation—Closed.
Ten houses were found to be not reasonably fit for habitation.

II. Number of defective houses made fit in consequence of informal action by the local Authority or their Officers—20

III. Action under Statutory Powers.

A. Proceedings under section 28 of the Housing, Town Planning, &c. Act, 1919—Nil.

B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

(1) Number of houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied—20.

(2) Number of houses in which defects were remedied—

(a) by owners—20.

(b) by Local Authority in default of Owners—Nil.

C. Proceedings under sections 17 and 18 of the Housing, Town Planning, &c., Act, 1909—Nil.
(3)—Nil.

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